

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 8, with the following amended paragraph:

The defect data detected by the image processing module 29 is sent to an input/output module 29b via a controller 29a. The controller 29a is a conventional computer system that provides overall control over the defect inspection apparatus and oversees communication with external systems. The input/output module 29b is a conventional computer system that performs functions such as displaying inspection information and overseeing the interface that receives instructions from the operator. Regarding its relationship with the auto-focus system, an auto-focus offset 29e entered by the operator into the input/output module 29b is transferred to the controller 29a, and the controller 29a sends instructions to the Z stage controller 13. Also, the auto-focus offset 29e is recorded as an inspection conditions file and transferred by the controller 29a via a conventionally known network 29e to be saved in an external database 29d. The operations of the auto-focus offset 29e will be described later.

Please replace the fourth full paragraph on page 13 with the following amended paragraph:

(1) The auto-focus offset 29e is initialized via the input/output module 29b ~~from Fig. 1~~ (the value of this auto-focus offset 29e-offset will vary by an amount corresponding to the thickness of the transparent film 2 depending on whether the focus is set to the surface 14 of the transparent film 2 or the focus is set to the lower-layer surface 10 of the transparent film 2).

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 13 and ends on page 14 with the following amended paragraph:

(3) Step (2) is performed multiple times with vertical adjustments made to the initial value of the auto-focus offset 29e. Based on this, the optimal conditions (most defects and least false detections) are determined. These conditions are recorded by the controller 29a ~~from Fig. 1~~ into a separate inspection conditions determination file, which is recorded in the external database 29d via the network 29e.

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 14 with the following amended paragraph:

The determined inspection conditions are stored in a file and saved by the controller 29a from Fig. 1 into the external database 29d via the network 29e. The saved inspection conditions are read and used by other inspection apparatuses on the network. To provide quick implementation of this process for determining conditions, it is necessary for the optimal auto-focus offset to be determined quickly.